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4-8-03**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria recognizes its natural environment is irreplaceable and fragile, and must be preserved for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day is a national event established in 1970 to increase people's understanding of their environment and mobilize support for its protection; and

WHEREAS, there are approaches and technologies all of us can learn about and incorporate into our daily lives that will help protect and replenish our environment; and

WHEREAS, the National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the City of Alexandria as a Tree City USA every year since 1983, and the City views trees as a critical part of our environment which enrich our lives aesthetically, as well as form the backbone of our urban habitat; and

WHEREAS, as part of the City of Alexandria's Arbor Day program, the City annually plants a tree on Alexandria Earth Day to symbolize the City's commitment to its natural environment; and the Tree Stewards of Alexandria and Arlington will launch Tree Week, an education program on caring for our canopy; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Earth Day Committee, in partnership with the Environmental Policy Commission, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, and the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, sponsors the fourth annual Stream Clean-up at Four Mile Run Park; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Earth Day Committee partners with several community organizations to celebrate Earth Day, including conducting an Invasive Plant Identification and Removal effort with the Campagna Center's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, launching a Storm Drain Marking program with Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, and promoting year-long Conservation and Environmental Projects with the Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center; and

WHEREAS, because of the generous support of Alexandria's business community, non-profit organizations, and civic leaders committed to the values of environmental stewardship, including TLA Associates, Mirant Potomac River, Whole Foods Market, Virginia-American Water Company, Washington Gas, Circe/AVEDA Lifestyle Salon Spa, Wal-Mart, Eakin/Youngentaub, William D. Euille & Associates, Alexandria Sanitation Authority, Alexandria Rideshare, Chambers Internet Consulting, OTV Inc., and Del Pepper, Earth Day has become Alexandria's premier environmental celebration;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KERRY J. DONLEY, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim April 26, 2003, as:

"ALEXANDRIA EARTH DAY AND ARBOR DAY"

in the City of Alexandria and hereby commend all persons who are committed to and work towards preserving our environment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 8th day of April 2003.

KERRY J. DONLEY **MAYOR**
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Beverly I. Jett, CMC City Clerk

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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4-8-03



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Information Call:
Robert Gordon, (703) 838-4844

For Immediate Release:
March 6, 2003

ALEXANDRIA EARTH DAY

Alexandria Earth Day Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2003, 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m., at Four Mile Run Park, 3700 Commonwealth Avenue. Admission is free.

This year's Earth Day Celebration will feature family-oriented environmental activities, a stream cleanup, Arbor Day tree planting & tree symposium, exotic plant identification & removal, environmental exhibits and displays, live animal exhibits, food, fun and much more.

Co-sponsors of the Alexandria Earth Day are the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, the Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission, the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service/Alexandria Office, the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau and the Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services.

For additional information, call the Special Events Hotline at (703) 883-4686. Visitors are encouraged to park at the Cora Kelly School, 3600 Commonwealth Avenue or use public transportation. For bus route information, call Alexandria Transit Services & Programs at (703) 838-3800.

(End)